

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, September 27. 1711.

I Have Entertain'd you once or twice, and I find it is to your Satisfaction, on the Article of the Wine Trade; It has been mightily endeavour'd to make this a Party Cause, but for my Life, I cannot make the Parties agree, who shall be the *Tories*, and who shall be the *Whigs*—The Vintners may Claim to be *Tories*, say some, because of their Corrupt Mixtures, but on the other Hand, that cannot fairly be al- low'd, because their *Turn is out*, and they are not uppermost: The *Brook and Hellar* Wines have Claim'd to be *Tory*, but it is pretended that they are *New and Natural*, to use their own Terms, and the Learned Whigs affirm, That it is Inconsistent with the Nature of *Toryism*, to be Neat, Genuine, and a true Original; It is most true, that both Sides have some Claim to the res- pective Qualifications of our Parties, and therefore leaving the Vintners to be of both Sides, as by their Profession they ought to be, I cannot but give my Opinion, that the Wines are of neither Side, and perhaps be- ing Right and Good, may help to reconcile both Sides; for no doubt, the Adulterating and Debauching our Wines, has help'd much to the Adulterating and Debauching our Tempers, and sitting us for all man- ner of Confusion and Disorder,

But

But how comes it to pass, said a famous *Wine-Seller* of the Town, that this damn'd Schism among our *Bottle-Men*, has prevail'd so much among us? Why truly my Answer is as short as the Question; by the same Rule, to carry on the Simily, that Truth always, at last, prevails against Error, even because it is Truth—And really there seems something in this Case worth Observation—The struggle between the *Vintners* on one Hand, and *Messieurs Brook and Helliar* on the other, was of no Consequence; they might have wrangled and cry'd one another down, and themselves up, the Town had taken little or no Notice of it; Trade had been little or nothing affected with it, nor had ever the Strife itself become Popular, it had been like a Contention between two of a Trade, which we say seldom agree.

But how comes it to pass, that on the first opening, the Cellars for Retailing these Wines, the Trade flow'd in upon them; that all the Country, as we may say, came in upon them? How comes it to pass, that the *Vintners* sunk, as it were, with a dead Blow, under it? That nothing sells, even in the common Taverns now, but *Brook and Helliar*; and the Name of the Merchants is now become the Name of the Wine?

The Fact no Man Disputes, and the Reasons are plain, viz. because they are *WINE'S*, no body can Object—(1.) The Truth, the Goodness, and real Quality of the Wines, has made the Difference—That they were, (1.) *WINE*, Neat, Natural from the Grape, as they were Imported, without Corruption, without Mixture, without Adulteration; a Thing the Town had long lost, and long wish'd for; and, (2.) That they were Good of their kind.

That the *Vintners* themselves could not deny, either, 1. That these Wines were Neat and Natural, or that their own were all mix'd, Made up, and Vitiated, as had been said.

If this had not been the Case, Will any Man tell me that the Town should be so Bewitch'd as once? Was it done by any Influence

of *Messieurs Brook and Helliar*? Could they persuade the People to make such a general Turn? NO, nor could all the Merchants in *Britain* have done it, had they Combin'd together; nay, the more they had Combin'd together, the more unable they would have been to have done it.

But the Case was obvious; 1. The *Vintners* had Surfeited the whole Nation, the People were gorg'd, they were tir'd with being Impos'd upon in their Wine—They knew the Wine was Naught, tho' they knew not where to get better, and they were so sick of it, that Thoulands of Families left off drinking of Wine, kept none in their Houses, brought none to their Tables—What was the Matter? Why they could not give their Friends a Bottle of good Wine, and therefore they would give them none at all: This fill'd our Tables and our Treats, especially among middling Families, with fine Ale's, Punch, and the like; What but this, could bring our People to fetch their Ale's from *Burton* upon *Trent*, and *Lamworth*, in *Staffordshire*, by Land Carriage 140 Miles? And what but this could have Erected so many Punch-Houses in *London*, as are now to be found; so that more Punch is now drank in *London* in three Months, than was drank in 25 Year, in the Time of King *Charles II.* and King *James*?

And how is the Case alter'd? Now, every House can give their Friend a Bottle of Wine, and they talk of it with so much Satisfaction, that it is surprizing: Families, that for some Years past had given over drinking Wine, now they furnish themselves; and a Glass of *Brook and Helliar* is the general Entertainment: The Thing is evident, from the vast Quantity of Wine sent from the Cellars of these Merchants into private Families, both in Town and in the Country round—The People drink it with a Gust; now they say, if they take a Glass or two more than usual, they are sure they shall not be Poison'd—They are sure they drink Wine, which they were rather sure they did not before.

Add to this; how the Vintners stand self-
Condemn'd, and Mute, have not one Word
to say for themselves, nor one Word to de-
ny of it all; the most I have heard any of
them say of it, is, That they were Fools,
and if some of them should say they were
Knaves too, *Hang him that should deny a
Word of it for them.*

How like a Rat set in the Pillory does a
poor Vintner look now, walking before his
Bar with his Hands behind him? —
Stand but at the Bar now, if you hear a
Drawer call his Wine to be Stor'd, as he
comes out of the Cellar, Ten Pints in Ele-
ven shall be Red or White Port — And in
doubt, but quickly, you shall hear them
cry — thus, A Quart of *Brook* and *Hellier*
— *Score*; In short, the rest of their Li-
quor, which they call'd Wine, they may
e'en send it to the Distillers — Or if the
Refiners could separate Liquors as they can
Metals, if they could part these Mixtures,
the Cyder would now sell much better alone,
than in the Wine.

This is the Case, the Delusion is over,
the Witches Circle is broken, the Charm
is dispers'd; now the People's Eyes are o-
pen'd their vitiated Palates are recover'd,
they have tasted good Wines, and they
will taste no other — Nay, and the Vint-
ners are so convinc'd of this themselves,
that now they come all to these very Mer-

chants to buy their Wines — This is like
a Doctor of my Acquaintance, who died of
that very Distemper that he had been al-
ways famous for Curing — The Vintners
die now of that very Disease, viz. Of draw-
ing Neat Wine, which they have been too
famous in Rectifying.

To rectify this, I hear they are Treating
these Merchants, as our Armies treat the
French Garrisons in *Islanders*, viz. Bombard
them — They are every Day Bombard-
ed with Bußying Letters, talking of Guns
and Daggers, Mobbing their Houses, and
the like — Alas, poor People! They are
going Lunatick, they take the Case wrong
— As was said in another Case, the Mob
is quite on t'other Side, the Mob's quite
against them, and there is more danger,
that, in Time, the Mob will be so convinc'd
of their having been Abus'd, Poison'd, and
Robb'd by the Vintners, that they will be
much rather inclin'd to pull down Vintners
Hall, than Mr. *Brook* and *Hellier's* Ware-
Houses; besides, tho' some of them may
be expected to hang themselves in some
short Time, yet at present, I do not see
they are in much hast to be Hang'd in due
Form of Law — And therefore, as
they say, that Men Worship God for fear
of the Devil, so the Gallows is an Honest
Man's Protection.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE highest Compounded Spirit of Laven-
der: The most Glorious (if the Expression
may be us'd) Enlivening Scent and Flavour
that can possibly be: In Vapours, sick Fits,
Faintings, &c. smelt to, or drops upon a bit
of Loaf Sugar, and eaten or dissolv'd in Wine,
Coffee, Tea, or whar Liquor you please, so
Charms the Spirits, delights the Gust, and
gives such Airs to the Countenance, as are

not so be imagin'd but by those that have
try'd it. The meanest sort of the Thing is al-
mir'd by most Gentlemen and Ladies, but this
far more, as by far it exceeds it, to the gath-
ing among all a more common Esteem. Is sold
only (in neat Glass Bottles fit for the Pocket)
at 2. 6d. each, at the Golden Key in Warion's
Court, near Holborn-Bar.

(2)
A D V E R T.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Just Publish'd (many Thousands of the former Editions having sold in a little time.)

MR. Marten's Seventh Edition of his Book and Second Edition of his Appendix, concerning Secret Diseases, both compriz'd in One Volume, with Amendments, and many hundred Additions: It being the last he will ever write; and it is presumed, contains as much any can write on that Subject, for the Benefit of Patients; all the Degrees and Symptoms, Ways of Contracting, certain Signs discovering, Nature Kinds, and Cure, being shewn; as also the Use and Abuse of Mercury; Mischiefs by Quacks, Effects of ill Cures, Seminal Weaknesses, and all other Secret Infirmities in both Sexes relating to that Infection, &c. are from Reason and long Experience explicated and detected; necessary for the Perusal of all that have, or ever had the least Injury that Way, and value the Health and Welfare of themselves and Posterity; that Distemper, if not totally eradicated, proving dangerous as well as odious. The whole interspers'd with Prescriptions, Observations, Histories, Letters, and Proofs of many remarkable Cases and Cures. By John Marten, Surgeon. Sold at his House in Hatton-Garden; as also by N. Crouch in the Poultry, A. Bettefworth on London-Bridge, P. Varrene at Seneca's Head in the Strand, C. King in Westminster-Hall, M. Atkins in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Booksellers, and D. Leach in the Little Old-Baily. Pr. Bound 7 s. 6d.

THE incomparable Plaster for Corns, so much approved of, in City and Country,

or keeping the Feet ease. Is sold at Mrs. Garway's at the South Entrance of the Royal Exchange, at Mr. Colston's at the Flower de Luce near Popes Head Alley in Cornhill, at Mr. Stephens's at the Comb under St. Dunstan's Church, Fleetstreet, and at Mr. Whitlock's next Door to the Devil Tavern at Temple Bar. All Toy shops. Seal'd up with a Blacka-moors Head at 12 d. a Box with Directions.

QUACKERY Unmask'd; in 3 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of Mr. Martin's Treatise of the Venereal Disease. 2. An Examination of the Charitable Surgeon, The Generous Surgeon, The Tomb of Venus, and a pretended new Method of curing this Disease. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and present State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery; a full Account of Quacks; then (in a concise Method) is shewn the Cause, Nature, Signs, and Dangerous Effects of this Disease, various ways of RECEIVING, Symptoms first Discovering, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the best, most cheap, safe, speedy, easie and private Methods of Cure. As also the Cause and Cure of Old Glands in Men, and Weaknesses in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Straban, at the Golden Ball in Cornhill, and B. Barker, in Westminster-Hall, and by the Author, Dr. Spink, at his Houle at the Golden-Ball, 3 Doors directly past the Sun-Tavern, in Milk-street-Market, Cheapside. Price 2 s.

Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy
Pater-Noster-Row. 1711.